

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

August 28, 2003

Present:

Karen Martin - (Chair) - Campbell Neighborhood Association
Larry Kanzler – Milwaukie Police Chief
Dolly Macken-Hambright – Linwood Neighborhood Association
Ray Bryan – Historic Milwaukie Neighborhood Association
Rick Bantz – Lake Road Neighborhood Association
Jeff Cohen - Pay & Park Auditors

Karen called the meeting to order at 6:10 hours. She asked if anyone had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the last meeting. No one did. Rick made a motion to adopt the minutes. Ray seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Variance appeal for the property at 37th & Harvey – went over the letter we sent to Mr. Nordby. He had signed it and agreed to it. The City received an appeal from Juli Howard – she felt the PSAC did not have the authority to dismiss the issue and feels that the issue should go before the City Council. Karen and Larry will appear also. Rick feels there is a flaw in the system – he wasn't sure if the PSAC should be able to undermine the decision of the Code Enforcement employees since members don't have any training. Larry feels that the code should be able to be understood and interpreted by the average lay person. It has been a good learning experience for the City. Dolly felt that the City has spent too much time and trouble on a hedge issue. Ray felt that the committee didn't have enough time to research the issue because of time restraints. Larry added that this committee has a very large learning curve.

Downtown parking enforcement – Jeff Cohen from Pay & Park Auditors gave a presentation regarding the privatization of public parking enforcement. His company has had a contract with the City of Portland for nine years. They have issued approximately 500,000 citations. They split the profits 50/50 with the City. They take over the appeal process, debt collection and the issuance of permits. They can staff a full time person (Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm) – the City only has staffing 20 hours/week. The City is just about breaking even with the costs involved in parking enforcement. If the City chose to go with this program they would increase revenue. In other cities they serve the general revenue has gone up. Parking enforcement has been identified as a livability issue in the downtown area and neighborhoods. There would also be a neighborhood parking permit program. Police officers would no longer have to deal with parking issues.

Dolly asked about the parking permits in the neighborhoods. Larry said that this applies to people who are parking in the areas nearby the park & ride areas. Residents would have a sticker for their vehicles at no cost. The decision would be up to the neighborhood associations. Ray asked how long the contract would be – Jeff said they would go with

whatever the City wanted – usually five years. Ray asked if the number of citations would be doubled since there will be twice the amount of enforcement being done. Jeff replied that may not be certain. Ray asked who set the fines – they would be set by the City. The Chief said that the biggest violators are usually the business owners and employees. Dolly asked if Jeff's business would be involved in the Tri-Met park & ride at the old Southgate Theater site – not that he's aware of. Jeff's company uses a hand held citation device that can store license plate numbers and previous citation information. Ray asked about the amount of turnover for their employees – Jeff said most employees have been there for many years. Dolly asked what the start up costs would be – Jeff didn't think that the City would pay anything out of pocket. We already have the citation device. They might want a "Cushman" type vehicle for the outer regions or they could use a City vehicle. Karen asked how close this project was to being implemented – Larry said this was the first citizen group that it has been presented to. The idea will have to go before the neighborhood associations and the City Council. Rick asked if the employees have quotas – no, they don't.

Traffic Management Plan – Larry received a call from Alice Rouyer and Paul Shirey (City Engineer) from the City – they want to be involved in the traffic management planning process. Paul would like to come to the next meeting and share his concerns/ideas. The group agreed that would be a good idea. Larry said he has a lot of questions and concerns about the document.

Larry had a request from a citizen from the Linwood Neighborhood Association who wants to start a Neighborhood Watch program. The City no longer has that program but the Police Department supports the concept. We did some crime analysis and found that reported crime was actually down in that neighborhood. We will be sending an officer to their next meeting to address the situation.

Larry said that West Linn PD has an online form to fill out when a citizen goes on vacation so that the PD can check their house while they're gone. They follow up with a card to verify when the house was checked.

Drug sales in the downtown area – Larry said there were emails going around regarding a complaint of drug sales from the security people in the area. The PD investigated, did surveillance, etc. and did not find any basis to the complaints. There were some social interaction problems involved with the employees and that was immediately addressed. The PD also received a complaint that a caller waited for fifteen minutes for police response after calling in a drug sale complaint. All calls are prioritized so it depends on what is going on at the time a call is received. Our call load for crimes has increased 19 percent in three months. The total call load has increased from 12,000 (2002) to a forecasted number of 23,000 calls. Larry will be making a report with this information for Council and will give the information to the committee.

Larry handed out information from Coral Sales Company regarding a quote for the traffic monitors. The price is \$7,691 each. Larry has gotten approval from the police employees to use money from the citation assessment fund. The group agreed to go ahead and purchase the equipment.

Larry handed out copies of an article entitled “Justifying Police Budgets in a Sluggish Economy”. He will be teaching a budgeting class through PSU for government executives.

He also handed out copies of the City of Portland’s traffic management plan.

Identity theft - Larry said that the police department is participating in a collaborative effort between banks, credit unions, insurance companies, the police agencies, prosecutors, etc. We have a commitment from private enterprise for approximately 4.5 million dollars. Larry is on the executive board and is handling the budget. Our PD will be involved in the task force.

The next meeting will be dedicated to the traffic management plan discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.m.